

Message Text

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14

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 H-02 /003 W

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O 100515Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5176

UNCLAS TOKYO 8738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, JA (OMENN, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: RETURN OF REMAINS

REF: STATE 134144 AND STATE 133505

1. IN VIEW RELATIVES' CONCERN DESCRIBED REFTELS, U.S. ARMY MORTUARY, TACHIKAWA, AGREED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PREPARATION MR. OMENN'S REMAINS, WILL ENDEAVOR HAVE THEM REEADY BY 1300 JULY 10 (LOCAL TIME) FOR TRANSPORTATION TO HANEDA AIRPORT. SINCE TRAVEL TIME TACHIKAWA TO HANEDA ABOUT TWO HOURS AND AIRPORT PROCEDURES REQUIRE ANOTHER HOUR, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PLACE REMAINS ABOARD NWA FLIGHT 004 OR PAA FLIGHT 846. EMBASSY HAS THEREFORE ARRANGED TO SHIP REMAINS ON EARLIEST FEASIBLE FLIGHT, NWA FLIGHT 006, ETD TOKYO 1600 JULY 10, ETA NEW YORK 2200 JULY 10 (NEW YORK TIME).

2. EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF MR. OMENN'S DEATH AT 1700, SATURDAY, JULY 7 BY PHONE CALL TO DUTY OFFICER FROM TOKYO AGENT OF EVERETT TRAVEL SERVICE. DUTY OFFICER ADVISED AGENT TACHIKAWA MORTUARY WAS CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 9, SO REMAINS COULD PROBABLY NOT BE READIED FOR SHIPMENT UNTIL AROUND JULY 11. DUTY OFFICER IMMEDIATELY ARRANGED FOR LOCAL UNDERTAKER TO SEND HEARSE TO PICK UP REMAINS AT PLACE OF DEATH, NIKKO, TOCHIGI PREFECTURE, ABOUT SIX HOURS BY CAR FROM TOKYO. EMBASSY PREPARED REQUIRED DOCUMENTS EARLY MONDAY MORNING, JULY 9, AND DELIVERED THEM TO

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UNDERTAKER, WHO DELIVERED THEM AND REMAINS TO

MORTUARY ABOUT 1100 SAME DAY. CHIEF MORTICIAN TOLD
US THEN THAT REMAINS COULD NOT BE READIED FOR SHIPMENT
UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JULY 11. EMBASSY HAD NO CONTACT WITH
DECEASED'S WIFE, WHO ACCORDING TO AGENT, RETURNED TO
U.S. JULY 8. EMBASSY DID NOT REPEAT DID NOT ADVISE
AGENT THAT REMAINS WOULD ARRIVE NEW YORK JULY 9 AND
AGENT DID NOT REPEAT DID NOT INDICATE THAT FAMILY'S
RELIGION REQUIRED IMMEDIATE INTERMENT.

3. EMBASSY APPRECIATES FAMILY'S CONCERN BUT BELIEVES
IT ACTED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
HAD EMBASSY BEEN INFORMED EARLIER THAT FAMILY'S RELIGION
REQUIRED IMMEDIATE INTERMENT WE WOULD HAVE REQUESTED
ARMY MORTUARY INITIALLY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PREPARATION
OF MR. OMENN'S REMAINS.
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